



eggs with black markings are deposited in the nest. Young leave the nest by the end of June. Fall migration starts in late July.

### **Habitats**

Mississippi River; Missouri River; interior rivers and streams; natural lakes and prairie marshes; constructed lakes, ponds, and reservoirs

### **Iowa Status**

common; native

### **Iowa Range**

summer: statewide; migrant: statewide

### **Bibliography**

Iowa Department of Natural Resources. 2001.  
*Biodiversity of Iowa: Aquatic Habitats* CD-ROM.

## **spotted sandpiper**

*Actitis macularia*

Kingdom:	Animalia
Division/Phylum:	Chordata - vertebrates
Class:	Aves
Order:	Charadriiformes
Family:	Scolopacidae

### **Features**

An adult spotted sandpiper is seven to eight inches long. This bird has large, brown spots on its chest during the spring and summer. In fall and winter its chest and belly are plain white. There are white marks on its shoulders and near each eye. The side of the face and lower eyelid are brown. It has gray-olive legs and a bi-colored bill.

### **Natural History**

The spotted sandpiper winters in the southern coastal United States south to South America. It may be found on the shores of ponds, streams, lakes, gravel pits, and sewage lagoons. This bird eats mostly insects and worms. Its call is "peet-weet." It flies low over the water with its wings curved. It is recognized easily by its teetering motion. It may be found singly or in groups of two or three. Spring migrants begin arriving in Iowa in late April or early May. The spotted sandpiper nests on the ground in a depression that it lines with grasses and plant stems. Typically, four tan